

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical sponge system, comprising:
  - a) a surgical sponge having a pocket for receiving a remotely detectable  
5 electronic marker;
  - b) a flap for closing said pocket, said flap having at least one side  
hingedly attached to said surgical sponge;
  - c) fastening means for closing and securing said flap to said surgical  
sponge in the closed position; and
  - 10 d) a remotely detectable electronic marker inserted within said flap.
2. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at  
least one corner and said pocket is positioned proximate said corner of said  
sponge.
3. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at  
15 least one edge and said pocket is positioned proximate said edge of said  
sponge.
4. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means  
comprises a first snap in said flap and a second snap in said sponge, said first  
and second snaps being mutually engageable.
- 20 5. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means  
comprises a staple.
6. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means  
comprises an adhesive present on at least one of said sponge and said flap.
7. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means  
25 comprises a hook and loop fastening system having a hook portion and a loop

5      8.      A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means  
comprises sewing said flap closed.

10 10. A surgical sponge system, comprising:

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12. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said sponge has at least one edge and said marker is attached proximate said edge.

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affixed to said marker and the other of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said surgical sponge.

15. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said attachment means comprises a pressure-sensitive tape.

5 16. A surgical sponge system, comprising:

- a) a surgical sponge;
- b) a remotely detectable, radio frequency electronic marker; and
- c) attachment means for attaching said marker to a surface of said surgical sponge.

10 17. A surgical instrument system, comprising:

- a) a surgical instrument having a tag connection aperture;
- b) an electronic tag;
- c) securing means for securing said tag to said instrument at said aperture.

15 18. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises an elongated anchor attached to said electronic tag and said anchor passes through said aperture.

19. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 18, wherein said anchor is integral with said electronic tag.

20 20. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 18, wherein said electronic tag has an eyelet and said anchor further passes through said eyelet.

21. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a rivet.

22. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a screw.

23. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said electronic tag has an eyelet, said securing means comprises a flexible lanyard, and said lanyard passes through said eyelet and said aperture.
24. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a flexible loop having two ends, said two ends are attached to said electronic tag, and said tag is inserted through said loop.
25. A surgical instrument system, comprising:
- a) a surgical instrument having a well therein sufficient in size to accommodate an electronic tag;
  - b) an electronic tag disposed in said well; and
  - c) closure means for securing said tag within said well.
26. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 24, wherein said closure means comprises pressure sensitive tape.
27. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 25, wherein: said closure means comprises a cover plate for covering said well and securing said tag therein, said cover plate having at least one cover hole therein, and at least one screw; said instrument has at least one threaded hole therein; and said cover plate is attached by said at least one screw passing through said cover hole to threadably engage said threaded hole.